against forged documents. Adjudication proceedings have been initiated in five such cases.

(d) The Government keeps a constant vigil to keep a check on the illegal activities of the foreign exchange dealers.

Fraud in Dena Bank

2264. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRI O. P. KOHLI:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CBI has unearthed a fraud in Dena Bank to the tune of Rs. 31 crore as reported in the Statesman and Hindustan Times dated 30th June, 1997; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that a fraud involving Rs. 31.79 crores was reported by Dena Bank during the last week of June, 1997, at its Mumbai (Gulalwadi) branch. The fraud came to light when the bank initiated steps to reconcile huge difference in the balance with the central clearing department account at the Gulalwadi and the service branch. A group of companies had opened accounts both with Dena Bank's Gulalwadi branch as well as United Bank of India's Kalbadevi branch. Cheques drawn on the accounts in the United Bank of India, Kalbadevi branch were deposited in their accounts with Gulalwadi branch of Dena Bank. The parties were unauthorisedly accommodated by Gulalwadi branch of Dena Bank by giving immediate credit to the account-holders and the instruments were sent for clearing with delay which in some cases was 7—10 days. The parties were also favoured unauthorisedly so as to have their cheques cleared through the clearing mechanism for high value clearing branches although the Gulalwadi branch did not fall in the area of high value clearing branches. 49 cheques aggregating to Rs. 31.04 crores were afforded credit in November-December, 1996 and the cheques were not sent for clearing thereby fraudulently siphoning off banks' funds. The branch copy of outward clearing schedules was also manipulated.

Two officers of the Gulalwadi branch of Dena Bank have been placed under suspension. The bank has initiated action to look into the role of other officers also. Central Bureau of Investigation have also registered a regular case in this regard and have arrested two officials of the bank as well as one private person.

Government's share holding in State Bank of India

2265. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have diluted its share holding in State Bank of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how Government monitor the management of the State Bank of India;

(d) whether it is a fact that complaints and representations pertaining to SBI are being ignored by Banking Department; and